inter-alia include strengthening of internal control mechanisms, review of fraud cases on continual basis, undertaking concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of bank's business, scrutiny of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above, improving housekeeping and imparting training to operational personnel. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank, a preliminary investigation is made. Based on the findings, a decision is taken whether to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or to handover the case to local police or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). On the basis of enquiry reports received after internal enquiry, or from police or CBI, banks take regular departmental action wherever necessary and award punishment to the officials who are found responsible for the fraud. The police and the CBI also file criminal cases for prosecution in Courts. Information regarding number of employees of public sector banks against whom prosecutions are pending in Courts for their involvement in corrupt practices for the years 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 is [See Appendix 189, Annexure 69].

Amount and percentage of subsidy

2678. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount and percentage of subsidy being provided during the last three years on petrol, diesel, kerosene (per litre), food-grains like rice, wheat, sugar etc. (per Kg.) and fertilizers (per quintal) year-wise; and

(b) the details of the total Government expenditure for these subsidies during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 70].

Special (Duty) Allowance to Central Govt. Employees posted in North Eastern Region

2679. Dr. (Smt.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether some categories of Central Government employees belonging to States other than North Eastern States are paid Special (Duty) Allowance when posted in N.E. Region while employees belonging to N.E. Region, are not paid such an allowance neither when posted in the States of N.E. Region nor outside these States; if so, what is the criteria in this regard; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to assuage feelings of discontentment sizzling amongst employees belonging to the States of N.E. Region on account of gross discrimination in the matter of payment of Special (Duty) allowance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Government civilian employees, including the employees belonging to North East Region, who have All India Transfer Liability are entitled to the grant of Special (Duty) Allowance on being posted to any station in the North East Region, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshdweep Islands and Sikkim, from outside the region. The All India Transfer Liability is determined by applying the tests of recruitment zone, promotion zone etc., i.e. whether recruitment to service/ cadre/post has been made on all India basis and whether promotion is also based on all India common seniority list for the service/cadre/post as a whole.

Reduction in capital gain tax under Income Tax Act

2680. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under active consideration of Government to reduce capital gains tax under Income Tax Act, 1961 section 112 in the overall national context and interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he has received some memoranda in the context of para 92 of his budget speech for 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(e) what steps have been taken in this direction so far and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Such a proposal was considered and enacted through the Finance Act, 1999.

Prior to the budget of 1999, the rate of tax on long-term capital gains arising out of transfer of shares, bonds, units etc. applicable to certain categories of non-resident assessees was 10% as against the rate of 20% applicable for resident assessees. A number of representations were received demanding the